PAID

10

Revd A. A. Phelps
Boston
Mass.

* You will regard the extracts as confidential

the secret. The affair will probably not strike you at all, as it does me. It cannot. To me it come like a hard blow upon a tender surface, though it is only a fr. who has received it. And though it is of kindred character with such as I am constantly receiving, in person, I am not the more reconciled to it on that acct. For a Missionary's heaviest Calamity* ~~to be made his crime~~, and to be lashed and cut with unfeeling severity, not to say sacrificed, seems strange enough. But I must stop.

I am much obliged for your kind letter. Do write again, as soon as convenient, and allow me to pay postage both ways. My eyes are so wasted by watching that I write very little. My dear wife may survive six months, or she may go in a fortnight; so uncertain is the progress and termination of Cancer, when its ravages are internal, as is the case with hers now, principally. The Lord is preeminently merciful in the midst of all, there being much composure, and even enjoyment as she descends the declivity of life.

The Am. Board had their instructions to the several reinforcements of Missionaries to the Sandwich Islands, printed in a small vol. some years ago. Can't you get a copy of it & send it to me by Gray's Express. No 9 Elm Street Boston. Send to care of Elisha Parker - N. Bedford. Excuse me.

Give any price for the little book.

Yours truly
Thos. Hafon

* I never heard of any thing against Mrs L. except his intention to return

J.L.

Behring & was on a visit at Punahou when he was seized with the Bilious Cholic & in three or four days died. He was in great mental perplexity respecting his return owing to a letter he had received from Dr. Anderson. Brother Armstrong & Cole & Bro: Dibble who saw the letter do not hesitate to say they believe his disease was greatly aggravated, if not brought on by Dr. A's letter. It is spoken of as an unkind, unfeeling letter & to a mind like Bro: Locke's & in his circumstances it must have been very painful. But if Missionaries can't go from their stations to the U.S. the Lord can take them to heaven and ask not the Prud. Committee." *

Bro: Locke was a stout young man, and an excellent Missionary. His wife died a year before him, and he was left with three little daughters, the eldest hardly four years old. I can not describe, in few words, the situation of a Missionary, in a heathen land, in such circumstances. You must do what you can to imagine it.

Soon after the death of Bro: L. he got a number of the Brethren to meet and consult, as to what he ought to do. They thought he ought to come home, and no man in the Mission doubted it, I suppose, for a moment. But such was his deference for the Board, or dread of their displeasure that instead of coming home immediately, & notwithstanding after of the law against the return of Missionaries was virtually repealed, he waited a year to confer with the Committee, and if possible to get their consent. You see

Dr. Thos. Lafon.

Aug. 15. 1844.

North Fairhaven Augt 15th 1844.

Revd A. A. Phelps
Boston

62

Dear Bro:

Yours of the 6th was recd. the 10th Inst. Instead of the letters, I have concluded to send you extracts.

1st From a letter of Mr C. C. Hall of S. I. Mission.

"Bro: Locke died on the 28th ultimo, at Punahou, where he had gone to stop a few days. His disease was inflammation of the bowels. He was sick but four days. He expected to have sailed for home in the Behring, which takes this, but the Lord has ordered it otherwise. He received a letter by Mr. Brown, from Dr. Anderson, of such a nature as to cause him intense pain, and some suppose his disease, or death may have been accelerated by it. But of this I do not wish to judge. You may be able to form an opinion on this point better than myself. I hope however, that I may never receive such a letter, under similar circumstances. It was not so intended, but it cut like a sickle, with a sharp but rough edge, and such wounds, I believe do not heal readily."

2. From a letter of Rev. L. Andrews.

"You will mourn with us the death of Bro: Locke. He had engaged his passage - selected his berth on board the bark